

## **BRAIDED GARMENT AND METHOD OF MAKING**

### **BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

The clothing industry has created a variety of different woven or braided designs which have been used for ornamental purposes; and, in some instances, the designs have served utilitarian purposes. For example, U.S. Des. Pat. No. 337,194 discloses convertible trousers which have decorative woven sides and which can be shortened by lacing. U.S. Des. Pat. No. 396,339 shows a shirt type garment with sections laced together, resulting in a decorative pattern. U.S. Des. Pat. No. 414,912 shows a lace-up jeans' design which also serves to secure the jeans.

### **SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

It is thus the object of the present invention to provide a braided garment which presents additional alternatives to enhance the design and function of woven, laced, or braided clothing.

It is an object of the present invention to provide a unique and attractive decorative design for clothing which also serves a functional purpose.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a braided garment which results in form fitting clothing, to stretchably conform to the size and shape of the wearer.

It is still another object of the present invention to provide a braided garment which can easily and quickly be braided.

It is a further object of the present invention to provide a method of braiding the garment which is simple and fun and which can be used on a variety of different types of clothing.

These and other objects are accomplished by the present invention, garments, such as shirts, jeans, skirts or dresses, which have uniquely braided outer surfaces. The braided surfaces provide a function, since they allow the garment to be form fitting and stretchably conform to the

size and shape of the wearer. The braid also results in an attractive and decorative clothing design. The braid is accomplished easily and simply by cutting a plurality of slits in the outer surfaces of the garment and threading the adjacent resulting loop segments which ultimately form the braid.

Novel features which are considered as characteristic of the invention are set forth in particular in the attendant claims. The invention itself, however, both as to its design, construction and use together with the additional features and advantages thereof, are best understood upon the review of the following detailed description with reference in the accompanying drawings.

#### **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

FIG. 1 shows a typical outer surface of a garment to be braided in accordance with the present invention.

FIG. 2 shows the outer surface in FIG. 1 with slits cut into the material of the garment.

FIG. 3 shows an elevation view of the outer surface of the clothing to be braided in accordance with the present invention.

FIG. 4 shows the initial braiding step of the method of the present invention.

FIG. 5 shows the subsequent braiding step of the method of the present invention.

FIG. 6 shows the final braid design of the present invention.

FIG. 7 shows an example of the garment of the present invention employing the braid of the present invention.

FIG. 8 shows a side view of the garment in FIG. 7.

## **DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION**

FIGS. 1-5 show the method of braiding a garment, which is a subject of the present invention. FIG. 1 shows section 1 of an article of clothing which, optimally, is of material which is somewhat stretchable in nature, e.g. cotton material such as is used in a polo shirt, jeans material or the like. Section 1 is a representative outer section of the shirt, jeans, lightweight jacket, skirt, or other article of clothing which is contemplated by the present invention. Section 1 has outer surface 2. In accordance with the method of the present invention, a plurality of slits 4 are cut into outer surface 2 of section 1. Slits 4 form a series of aligned openings 5 when section 1 is expanded, as shown in FIG. 3. Alternately formed between slit openings 5 is a plurality of aligned loop segments 6, 7, 8, and 9, also shown in FIG. 3. For purposes of the herein description of the present invention, four looped segments are shown; however, the invention is not to be considered restricted by the number of looped segments and the length of the ultimate braid which is formed within an article of clothing. There are no restrictions on the number of slits which can be cut into the outer surface of the garment to be braided and hence the number of looped segments and ultimate length of the braid.

FIG. 4 shows the initial step in the braiding operation. Loop segment 7, which is the second looped segment in the row of aligned looped segments, is pulled under loop segment 6, the first loop segment in the alignment. Loop segment 7 is then pulled over loop segment 6, as shown in FIG. 5. Loop segment 8 is then pulled tight through loop segment 7, also as shown in FIG. 5. This procedure is repeated with the next loop segment in the row; that is loop segment 9, the fourth loop segment in the plurality of aligned loop segments, is pulled through loop segment 8. Each loop segment is pulled tight in relation to its previous loop segment. Subsequent loop segments in the row of aligned loop segments are similarly pulled through each of their respective preceding loop segments in the row. The resulting braid 10 shown in FIG. 6 is

secured from unraveling by tying a standard knot 12 using the last loop segment at the end of the braided row. The same braiding procedure can then be followed on the opposite side surface of the garment.

FIGS. 7 and 8 show shirt 20 employing braid 10 of the present invention. Braid 10 is located on both outer side surfaces of shirt 20. While braid 10 is shown on the outer side surfaces of shirt 20, the braid of the present invention can be woven into any article of clothing, e.g. jeans, shorts, lightweight jackets and other types of shirts and blouses, which has an outer side surface or any foldable outer surface which would permit the cutting of aligned slits 4.

The braid of the present invention provides an attractive and decorative design to enhance the look of a standard piece of clothing. When woven within clothing which is of stretchable material, the braid also serves a functional purpose, since the resulting garment is form fitting to the wearer, the braid providing expansion or contraction of the clothing, given the size and shape of the wearer.

Certain novel features and components are disclosed in detail in order to make the invention clear in at least form thereof. However, it is to be clearly understood that the invention as disclosed is not necessarily limited to the exact form and details as disclosed since it is apparent that various modifications and changes may be made without departing from the spirit of the invention.